

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 23, 31 and 32 have been canceled, and claims 24, 25, 29, 33, 34, 36 and 37 have been amended without adding new matter. Claims 1-22, 24-30 and 33-107 remain pending.

Claim Rejections -- Double Patenting

Claims 1-107 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-129 of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,276. Applicant has enclosed a Terminal Disclaimer herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 23, 29, 31, 32 and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,538 to Morris et al. ("Morris"), and claim 30 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of Morris.

Applicant has canceled claims 23, 31 and 32 without prejudice and therefore submits that the rejection of those claims is moot.

Applicant has amended claims 29 and 36 to depend from claims 24 and 33, respectively. As discussed below, claims 24 and 33 have been amended, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion for allowability, to include all the limitations of their respective base claims any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 29 and 36, and claim 30 which depends from claim 29, are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24-28, 33-35, 37 and 38 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 24, 25, 33, 34 and 37 accordingly to include all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Because claims 26-28 depend from claim 25 and claims 35 and 38 depend from claims 34 and 37, respectively, applicant submits that claims 24-28, 33-35, 37 and 38 are in condition for allowance.

In Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be helpful in any way, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

A Petition for Extension of Time is enclosed herewith.

Authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account 501914 for any fee deficiency associated with this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

SHEMWELL GREGORY & COURTNEY LLP

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Charles E. Shemwell, Reg. No. 40,171
Tel. 408-236-6645